

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph at p.11, line 18 – p.12, line 8, at p. 11, line 20 as follows

(bold type only to highlight changes):

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating several LSPs 200 within the customer access network 114 and backbone 124 according to an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 illustrates a single headend 210. As described above, the headend 210 is typically either the end-user 110 or the aggregation router 116, depending upon the embodiment of the present invention. The headend 210 pushes the initial labels onto the data packets. An intermediate node **212 214** is located between the headend 210 and the tailends 214, 216. The tailends 214, 216 pop the final labels off the packets. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the tailends 214, 216 are border routers of the backbone 124. The two illustrated tailends 214, 216 are respectively coupled to first and second ISPs 218, 220. The ISPs are 218, 220 are autonomous from the backbone 124. The first ISP 218 has an ASN of X, designated as ASN(X), and the second ISP 220 has an ASN of Y, designated as ASN(Y). In FIG. 2, the direction from the headend 210 to the tailend 214, 216 is referred to as the “downstream” direction while the direction from the tailend 214, 216 to the headend 210 is referred to as the “upstream” direction.